(c) and (d) No, Sir. There are divergent views on the issue of grant or recognition through Secret Ballot among the staff associations under JCM. Further, some of the associations have already been recognized through check-off system of verification and the process of recognition is underway in various Departments.

Demand and production of Petroleum

93. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual demand for petroleum and petroleum products in the country;

(b) the production of petroleum and petroleum products in the country;

(c) the annual import of such products and the amount spent thereon; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve self sufficiency in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The demand for petroleum products during 1996-97 is estimated at 78.4 MMT.

(b) The production of petroleum and various petroleum products during 96-97 is estimated at 61.49 MMT.

(c) The quantity and value of imported products depends on the overall consumption, indigeneous production of crude oil and petroleum products and prices of petroleum products prevailing in the international market from time to time.

(d) With a view to achieve self-sufficiency in refinery the Govt. has permitted setting up of refineries in the joint sector and private sector. The Govt. has also offered medium and small sized fields to private/foreign parties for the production of crude oil under Production Sharing Contracts.

Diversification Programme of MFI

94. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Modern Food Industries has embarked upon a diversification Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of agreements made for cashewnut marketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) and (b) The main activity of Modern Food Industries (India) Limited, (MFIL) is production of bread. However, MFIL undertook diversification programme and started production of items like energy food, cakes, extruded food, etc. Recently, it has started production and marketing of nutro and gluco biscuits. The Company has also undertaking marketing of cashewnuts.

(c) MFIL has entered into an agreement with M/s. Peirce Leslie Cashewnuts and Coffee Limited, for marketing of cashewnuts processed and packed by M/s. Peirce Leslie Cashewnuts and Coffee Limited, under their brand name "Royal Choice" w.e.f. 1.2.1995 for a period of 5 years. MFIL is an exclusive marketing agent for Kerala, Mahai (Pondicherry), Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The Commission to the Marketing agent, i.e. MFIL, in the first year was 3.5% of the ex-factory price of the product and for the subsequent years, it is 6%.

Nuclear Power Plans in a mess

95. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "India's N-Power Plan in a mess", as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th November, 1996;

(b) if so, whether country's nuclear power programmes is in a mess as alleged by an expert; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.